



STATE OF WASHINGTON
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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June 28, 2005

The Honorable Christine Gregoire, Governor
Office of the Governor
PO Box 40002
Olympia, Washington 98504-0002

Dear Governor Gregoire:

The Conservation Commission (WSCC) Members and staff appreciated the opportunity to consult with Keith Phillips during a past Commission meeting in the Olympia area. During the discussion, Mr. Phillips requested that the Conservation Commission enter into discussions with you regarding a significant role for the WSCC for assisting in growth management issues throughout the state.

During the WSCC's most recent meeting in Colfax, the members identified a two-part role they would like to explore with you for conservation and protection of our states productive working lands. That role would include:

- The WSCC would facilitate the dialog with natural resource stakeholder groups, agencies, and producers to identify viable alternatives for land-use conservation of productive working lands in our State.
- From the facilitated dialog with groups described above and research of effective and applicable programs in other states, the WSCC would develop a land-use conservation adaptive management model for the conservation of working lands. This adaptive management model would include incentives that recognize economic impacts, evaluate and recommend alternative approaches to stewardship, and formulate monitoring protocols that ensure the success of State programs. The model would be offered to counties through the conservation district system.

The Conservation Commission will be meeting in Moses Lake on July 14th and Port Angeles on September 15th to work on these two ideas. We look forward to hearing your thoughts and exploring the role of the Commission and conservation districts in this critical natural resource conservation activity for our State.

Yours in Conservation,

Mark A. Clark
Executive Director

cc: Commission Members
Keith Phillips, Executive Policy
Valoria Loveland, WSDA

Juli Wilkerson, CTED
Leonard Bauer, CTED/Growth Management
John Larson, WACD